



Western South Dakota Outdoor Report

Wildlife Division Region 1
September 26, 2014



Region 1 Wildlife Report

DATE: 09/24/2014

North District (Lawrence, Butte, Harding, Perkins, Meade & Ziebach)
Reporting Officer: DCOS Aplan, WCO's Eastman, Mutschler, Fees & Hein

Fishing Report:

Lawrence County –Fishing activity has slowed down, but the fishing success is good, most Hills lakes getting the large fall stockings before ice.

Butte County – Anglers are having some success catching Walleye in water depths of 5' to 15' the bite has slowed down the last couple weeks. A few walleye are also being caught on crank baits. Anglers please remember that there is a slot and only one Walleye over 18" may be kept per person. Also, Walleye between 15" to 18" cannot be kept. Boaters please remember to properly drain the boat before leaving the launch areas. Help us keep the aquatic nuisance out of our lakes!

Perkins County – Fishing is starting to pick back up for fall. Water temperatures are starting to drop and fish activity has increased. Anglers are having success catching crappie and walleye.

Meade County – Activity has been slow. Fishing should pick up as the temperatures reduce. Durkee Lake is still a good place to take youngsters as bluegill and bullheads anxiously wait below the dock.

Currently there is no access to Howes corner lakes due to the closure of Hwy 73. Construction reports suggest another few weeks until Hwy 73 is reopened.

Ziebach – Anglers reports have been limited in recent weeks. It's always important to pay special attention to deeded land vs. tribal land in relation to having the correct license. Glad Valley dam has been quite productive resulting in quality bass and perch.

Hunting Report:

Archery deer season opens this weekend on the 27th. Hunters are reminded to respect the land, landowners, and wildlife by following rules and taking good ethical shots.

Archery Antelope and dove seasons are under way. Ground surveys suggest healthy numbers of both antelope and doves. A good number of successful antelope hunters seem to be utilizing blinds and decoys to close the gap.

Archery elk season is in full swing. A handful of quality bulls have been checked in in previous weeks.

Prairie unit 9 and 15 Elk hunters are reminded they are required to acquire permission from landowners prior to the hunt, as these are private land hunts only.

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- Hunt SAFE in Sturgis on September 4th-6th.
- HuntSAFE in Spearfish Sept. 22nd-25th.

Check GFP website for the many other planned events and classes for your area.

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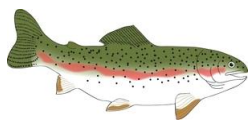
Central District

(SE Lawrence, S Meade, C Pennington, E Pennington, Haakon, N Jackson, NE Custer)

**Reporting Officer: WCO's Brainard, Edwards, Geigle, Keeton, Thomsen
DCOS McCormick**

Fishing Activity: Western South Dakota

Black Hills area lakes and streams:



Anglers are catching a few decent trout and some crappies size of hand on Sheridan Lake. Fish are mainly being caught on worms and some anglers catching on salmon eggs. Anglers are still catching trout from shore on Pactola and on Canyon Lake but it has slowed down a bit more. Boat anglers seem to still be having the best luck.

Please read the Western Lakes Regulations when fishing due to the changes of limits and sizes of fish in each lake.



We encourage all anglers to read the 2014 Fishing Handbook for regulations.
lake. **Western Prairie Lake and dams:**



There are a few crappies being caught from shore at Curlew Lake. Surveys were conducted on New Wall Dam and New Underwood Dam. Lots of catchable largemouth bass were detected at New Wall Dam. The fish kill did not affect New Underwood Dam that much, lots of largemouth bass detected during the survey. There is still a good population of bluegills in the lake also. Fishing should be picking up with the cooler weather.

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Wildlife:

Doves are still in the area. Remember that dove season has specific regulations, so please review them prior to going out. Archery antelope season is in progress as well. There are few archery antelope hunters out right now. Good time to target water holes before the rut starts. Grouse season starts this weekend September 20, 2014.

Please remember to get the 2014 Hunting Handbook and read up on new changes for this year. Also, the 2014 Hunting Atlas is out. Please review due to changes in WIA land this year in certain locations.

Fall survey is still in progress. As of now the department is surveying antelope, turkey and deer in the Black hills. The State of South Dakota Pheasant survey has been completed and you can find the results on the GFP website.

PLEASE REMEMBER WITH DRIER WEATHER/GRASS BRINGS HIGHER FIRE DANGER. PEOPLE RESPECTFUL ON PUBLIC AREAS WITH THE FALL HUNTING SEASON APPROACHING.

Region 1 Wildlife Report

Southern District

Date: 9/23/2014

County: Bennett/East Shannon/South Jackson

Activity:

Nothing new to report.

**Hunting Report:**

Waterfowl – I'm seeing a lot of ducks on many of the wetlands. While the hunting seasons are not on yet, it is a great time to watch or photograph them.

Small Gam

Fishing e – The grouse opener was pretty slow in this area. The grouse are still spread out and require a lot of miles of walking to find them. Most hunters in this area wait until we have some colder weather which brings the grouse out the sandhills to hunt them as the birds are bunched and much easier to find. Speaking of finding birds, it is getting much harder to find a mourning dove. There are still a few that haven't headed south yet, but it would be hard to find enough to make it worth while to hunt. There are some pheasants this year, but they are spotty. Where there is cover, there are usually birds. Not like a couple of years ago, but quite a bit better than last year. There are some exceptions as bad hail storms killed birds in a couple of strips across the area.

Land Report -- The walk in hunting books should be coming out in a month or so. You will see some additions and some deletions for this area. Basically we lost a couple thousand acres of access this year. Some was because of land ownership changes while other losses were the result of hunters not appreciating what they had. It only takes a few incidents to ruin it for everyone and result in land closures. I cannot say enough times that hunters need to police themselves. If you see someone driving on walk in areas, or using the walk in areas to access private lands where they do not have permission, please let us know. Your call may insure having a place to hunt in the future.

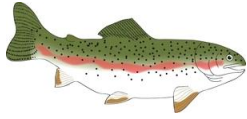
District Report-

We have a hunter Big Game – I have found one more whitetail deer (a buck) which likely died of EHD. If you find any safety course planned for the nights of September 24 – 26 in Martin. Please contact Gary Rayhill or Tom Beck for more information.

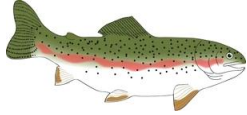


County: West Custer/West Pennington
Reporting Officer: WCO Jacob Ehlert
Date: 9/23/2014

Fishing: Guys are doing very well at Deerfield. Fishing has been outstanding after rains.



Fishing: Trout fishing has been excellent with the colder weather. Some very nice trout are being picked up lately. Remember only 1 trout over 14" in the Black Hills trout management area.



Big Game: The elk rut is on. If you have an archery elk tag the time to hunt is now. Bulls are very receptive to calls and are talking all day long.

Remember the 10pm curfew when locating animals with a spotlight. No weapons in the vehicle while spotlighting.

Turkey and elk surveys are also still underway. It is very difficult to see the turkeys this year due to the tall vegetation cover. We are collecting data from the Hills and Prairie units.

Small Game: Lots of rabbits and squirrels.

District Report: If you are going camping in the Black Hills Fire Protection District remember no open fires outside of designated campgrounds. This has been an issue lately.

If you witness a violation please call TIPS at 1-888-OVERBAG or your local Sheriff's Office. Making the call can prevent poachers from stealing YOUR public resource!

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. Date: 9/17/2014

County: East Custer/South Pennington

Reporting Officer: WCO Ron Tietsort

Fishing Activity: Some good fishing at Bismarck Lake, trout, crappie and fat bullheads pulling on the line. Rainbows are biting at Sylvan, Center, Legion and Horse thief. Stockade Lake is great for pan fish right now, small bluegill, crappie and perch will keep the young ones entertained for hours.

Big Game: All 4 archery elk hunters in CSP have filled their tags with bull elk, the rut is in full swing and it is a good time to listen for bugles in CSP and Wind Cave, morning and evenings are best.

Remember that spotlighting is legal with no firearms or bows in the vehicle, you can spotlight up to 10:00 PM. In Wind Cave and other National Parks you cannot spotlight at any time.

Small Game: The cold snap sent some of the doves packing their bags south for the winter but grouse season kicks off this weekend so there will still be some small game hunting opportunities in the area

District Report:

Buffalo round up and arts festival are coming up September 26th at Custer State Park, you won't want to miss the action.

Date: 9/15/2014

County: Fall River

Reporting Officer: WCO DJ Schroeder

Fishing Activity:



Harvest from area waters remains constant. Coldbrook and Cottonwood Reservoirs were recently stocked. This should provide some decent opportunity to catch some trout. Angostura remains a little slower - but some nice fish are being harvested daily.

Hunting Report:



There are several archery antelope hunters in the area. Success is limited - but hunters are finding a few antelope to chase around. Seeing a few successful elk hunters this last week. The cold snap sure help “wake the bulls up”. Should be an excellent hunt this fall. Youth hunters are beginning to take interest in the deer hunting also. There are still doves in the area - - but the cool weather has sent a lot of them south. Not seeing a lot of pheasants out there yet. Hard to tell with all the cover – but it looks like it may take a few more years to re-build that population.

District Report:

This is that time of year when we really need assistance from sportsmen to contact us when you see something that doesn’t look right in terms of illegal activity out there.

Please take the time to record a license number and vehicle description when you witness a fish or game violation. Don’t hesitate to call the TIP’s Hotline or the local Sheriff’s Office and report the violators. You will help us all preserve the sport!!

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